

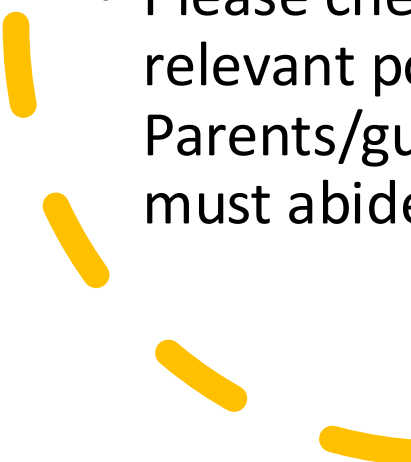


Holy Family Community School

TY Information 2026/2027



Welcome from Ms Morrin

- Thank you for attending this information night regarding a very important year for Transition Year students.
 - At HFCS we will work very hard to ensuring that it is a productive, enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone.
 - It will involve students working diligently, participating positively and engaging respectfully with their peers and everyone in the HFCS community.
 - Please check the school's website www.hfcs.ie for the updated Code of Behaviour and relevant policies. **All students must adhere to the schools' policies.**
Parents/guardians and students are expected to read these policies and students must abide by all school policies.
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Pastoral Care Team

Tutors

Rang 41 – Ms Ralph

Rang 42 – Mr Kavanagh

Rang 43 – Mr Coyne

Rang 44 – Ms Phipps



Pastoral Care Team

- Guidance Counsellors Ms. C. Perris & Ms U.McDonnell
- AN Coordinators Mr. M Savage
- Deputy Principals
 - Ms. Denise O' Keeffe,
 - Mr. Liam Ferguson
 - Dr. Derek Maher
- Principal Ms. Ingrid Fallon
- Student Support Team

Advanced Medical Services (AMS) Cardiac Screening

Cardiac Screening available – all details below & sent via VSWare Mail

Booking closes Monday 7th September

AMS is Ireland's leading mobile Cardiac Screening company. They perform cardiac screening in schools & sports clubs nationwide, ultimately aimed at reducing the incidents of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS). Approx 2 young people (under 35) die each week in Ireland from SADS. Research has shown that cardiac screening can significantly reduce the incidents of SADS. Please see below for further information on cardiac screening

This Cardiac Screening is mainly targeting people aged between 12 & 35 years. However, a significant number of people over this age avail and benefit from the screening as well. The screening can help identify people with risk of underlying cardiac abnormalities / heart disease but like all screening programmes, it cannot guarantee 100% of picking up all cardiac issues including coronary artery disease.

CARDIAC SCREENING

The screening includes:

- Personal & Family History Questionnaire
- Physical examination with a Medical Doctor
- 12 Lead Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- The medical data & ECG are assessed & reported on by a Consultant Cardiologist

FEE

The fee for Cardiac Screening is at a discounted rate of €80. Any person with Laya health insurance can avail of the service for free as part of their membership (current individual membership required). People with other health insurance may be able to claim a portion of the fee back.

WHY CARDIAC SCREENING?

Understanding the Risk

While sudden cardiac death in young people is rare, it can occur unexpectedly in individuals who appear completely healthy. Some heart conditions that increase this risk can be present without any symptoms and may only be identified through cardiac assessment. International research has shown that cardiac screening can identify many of these conditions before they cause serious problems, giving young people & their families the opportunity for appropriate monitoring & treatment where needed.

What Can Cardiac Screening Detect?

Some heart conditions can be present without symptoms and may only be identified through cardiac assessment. Cardiac screening is designed to identify structural heart abnormalities & certain electrical disorders that may increase the risk of sudden cardiac events.

Important to understand: Cardiac screening can identify many, but not all, conditions that may lead to sudden cardiac events. Screening cannot detect all potential causes, including some forms of coronary artery disease or conditions that may develop after screening. A normal screening does not eliminate all cardiac risk. Approximately 3-4% of young people screened may need follow-up testing for clarification or reassurance.

Evidence Supporting Cardiac Screening

Research Experience: In the Veneto region of Italy, mandatory cardiac screening for individuals aged 12+ years involved in competitive sport has been associated with significant reductions in sudden cardiac death among screened athletes over the past 30 years. Research from this region showed an 89% reduction in sudden cardiac death rates among the screened population.

Medical Body Recommendations: The European Society of Cardiology & the International Olympic Committee recommend cardiac screening every 2 years for competitive athletes. World Rugby recommends cardiac screening for rugby players, with repeat screening ideal every 2 years for athletes under 20 years of age. The GAA's Medical, Scientific & Welfare Committee recommend one-time screening for all players over 14 years & again before aged 25 years.

HOW TO BOOK IN FOR THIS SERVICE



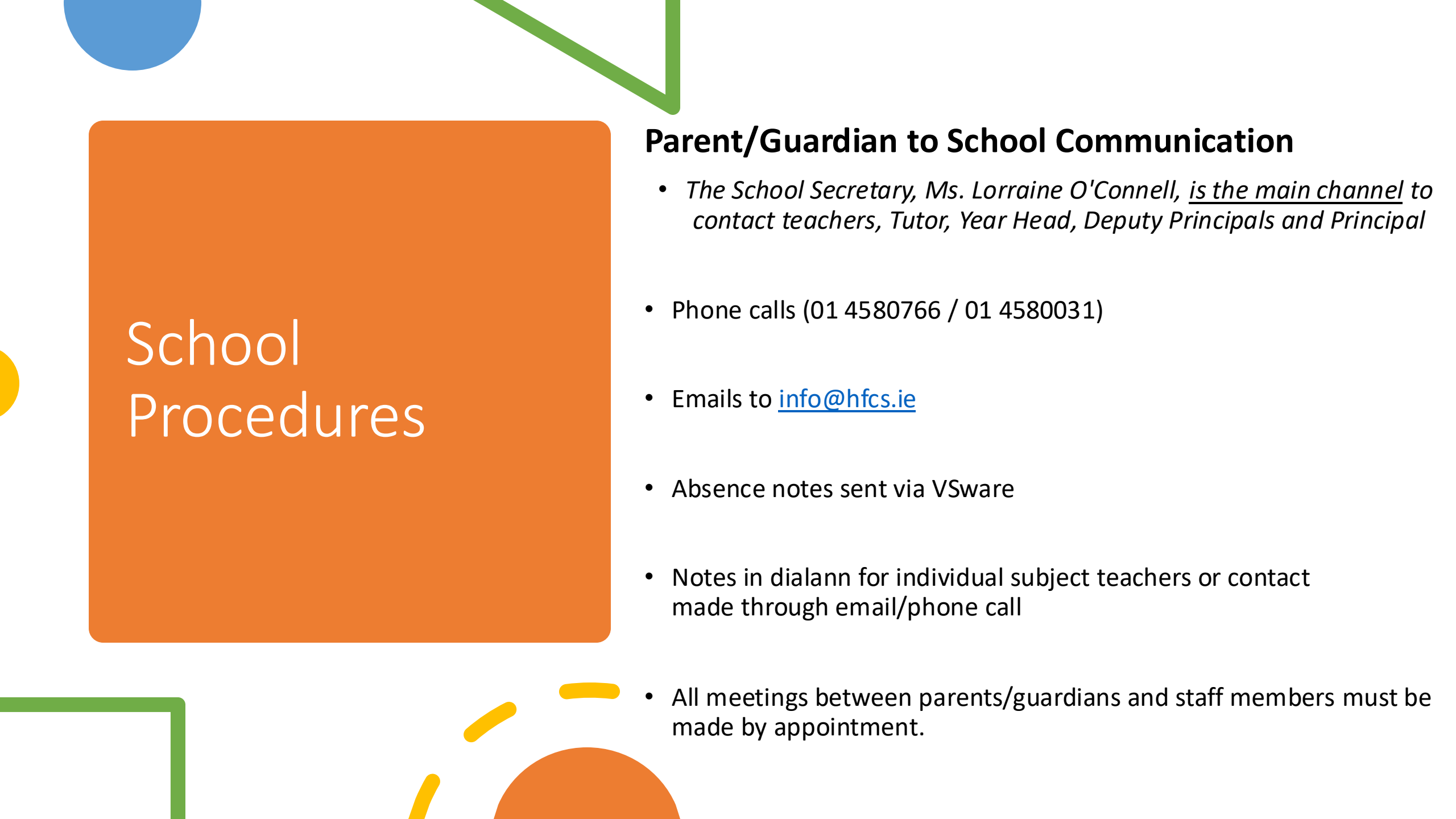
1. Go to www.ameds.ie
2. Click on Online booking Enter clinic code: **HFCS26**
3. Or click <https://bookings.ameds.ie/booking/from-code?code=HFCS26>
4. Complete registration & pay (if required)

Communication between school and parents

- **VShare** is the management and communication system used by the school.
- Parents/guardians can look at their child's timetable, attendance, assessment results and behaviour record on VShare.
- **Absence notes must be communicated to the school through VShare.**
- VShare is also the system used to communicate messages to parents/guardians.
- In order to receive messages, please ensure that you download the VShare app on your mobile device and allow notifications.
- **Please ensure that you have the APP downloaded on to your phone.**
- Instructions on how to download the VShare app can be found here: <https://support.vshare.ie/en/parent-app-overview>

CHECK VSHARE
REGULARLY!

The image shows a login interface for the VShare system. At the top, there is a large, stylized logo with the letters 'VS' in blue and 'WARE' in a lighter blue, set against a blue background with faint circular patterns. Below the logo, the word 'Login' is written in a small, light blue font. There are two white input fields: the first is for the username and the second is for the password. Below the password field, there is a link that says 'Reset Password' in a small, light blue font. To the right of this link is a green circular icon with a white checkmark. At the bottom, there is a blue button with the text 'Sign In' in white.



School Procedures

Parent/Guardian to School Communication

- *The School Secretary, Ms. Lorraine O'Connell, is the main channel to contact teachers, Tutor, Year Head, Deputy Principals and Principal*
- Phone calls (01 4580766 / 01 4580031)
- Emails to info@hfcs.ie
- Absence notes sent via VShare
- Notes in dialann for individual subject teachers or contact made through email/phone call
- All meetings between parents/guardians and staff members must be made by appointment.

School Procedures

Classes begin at 8.45am and finish at 3.40pm (1pm on Wed.). Students must be in school **5 minutes before** first class in the morning and first class in the afternoon

Morning break is from 10.45am - 11.00am (varies slightly on Wednesdays)

Lunch break 1.00pm – 1.40pm

Senior students are allowed to go down to the village for lunch on the condition that they will return **on time** for class. Sanctions will apply if students return late from the village.

All students are expected to take a turn at the lunch time cleaning roster.

Students will be notified in advance of the week they will be on the lunch time cleaning roster.



Personal
Electronic
Devices – Please
read the
school's AUP
policy on hfcs.ie

- Must be off and out of sight at all times during school day
- Students must not take photographs or recordings of any member of the school community
- Students must not use their personal electronic devices to abuse, threaten, harass or bully other students or staff or use these devices to invade the privacy of any member of the school community. Infringement of these rules is taken very seriously by the school.
- **Parents/Guardians must not phone students during the school day**
- Please read www.cybersafeireland.org and www.webwise.ie

Uniform

Students must wear full school uniform

Students must wear school P.E. uniform on P.E. day.
Only the official school P.E. gear is allowed

Students must have a note if not wearing the uniform
(note only covers one day and this should rarely happen)

Please make sure your son/daughter has all the books/iPad etc. listed on their book lists

Your son/ daughter should check his/her timetable each night to make sure they are prepared for their classes the next day.



Detention

- Is on Wednesdays from 1.15p.m. to 2.15p.m.
- Parents/ Guardians will be informed by the school when detention is given and the reason for detention
- Parents must organise transport home for their son/daughter
- Failure to attend detention may result in suspension
- If a student is unable to attend detention, a note must be presented to the Behaviour Management Co-ordinator, Mr Brendan Weldon

Students in HFCS

We want our students to be happy in HFCS.

Bullying will not be tolerated and should be reported to the school.

In the school, we promote and encourage restorative practice amongst the school community. This involves building positive relationships and caring cultures.

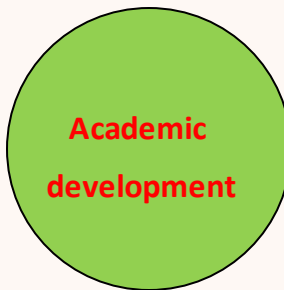
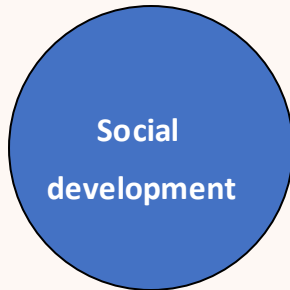
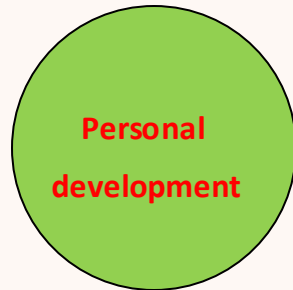
Students are expected to show manners towards all staff and students. TY is based on a model of TRUST.

Students are expected to show respect for each other and to watch out for one another.

Students are asked to treat others as they would like to be treated.

Transition Year Programme Aims

- At the age of 15-16 young people are at a critical stage in growing up
- It is very much a time of **transition**
- One transition is from the dependence of childhood towards the relative independence of adulthood
- Within school it is a time of transition between the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate
- Young people growing up have many needs, for example;



Purpose of Transition Year

Space provided to grow and mature

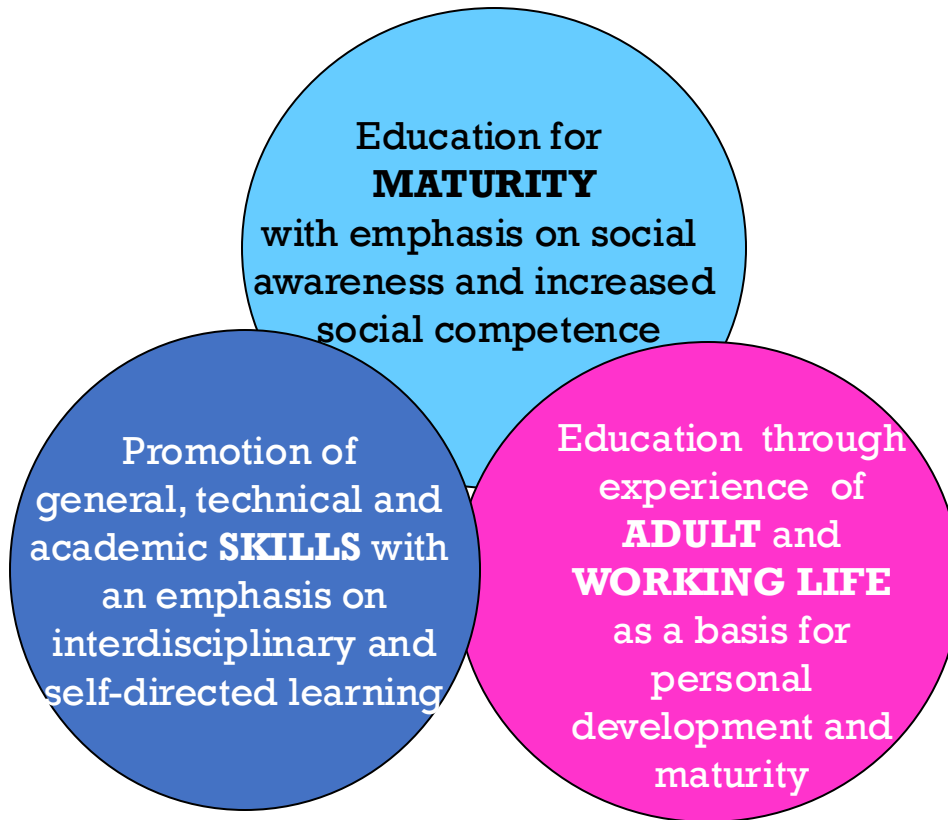
Students have many opportunities to practice teamwork skills, research skills, IT skills, project skills

Students become more self-directed learners through the development of general, technical and academic skills

Students gain in maturity in relation to work and careers by developing work-related skills and career planning

Opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility

Multiple Aims of Transition Year



- Bridge between childhood and adulthood
- Bridge between Junior Cycle and LC programmes
- Broad educational experience
- Active and experiential learning
- Education for maturity
- Skills development
- Experience of adult and working life
- Promote personal, social, educational and vocational development
- Autonomous, participative and responsible citizens



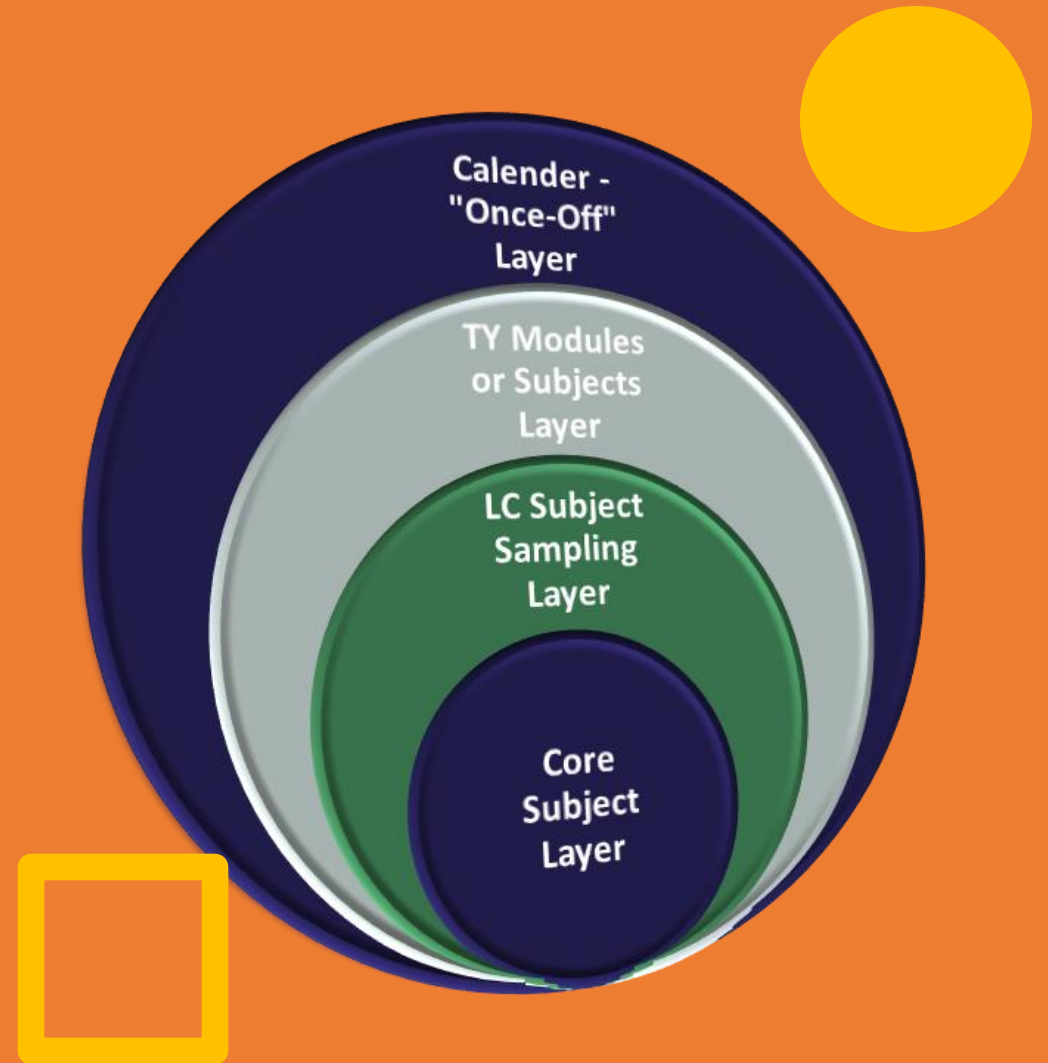
Transition Year Mindset -

*"You get out of TY
what you put into it"*

- Need to embrace the change that comes with Transition Year:
 - Transfer to Senior Cycle – additional privileges and responsibilities.
 - CV Booster (Barista course, Forensics, Microsoft Specialist etc.).
 - New subjects.
 - New friends.
 - Different types of learning.
 - New experiences.
 - Gaisce/Leadership and Coaching.
 - Students are responsible for their own learning.
 - Need to maintain study/work pattern outside of school:
 - Different approach to that utilised when studying the traditional curriculum – project-based, reflective.
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FOUR LAYERS OF A TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

“The Onion”



- Work Experience Placements.
- Visiting Speakers (Forensics, School of Life, Haircare etc.).
- Field Trips (Lilliput, Zipit, STEM Passport etc).
- Community Care- Localise Youth Volunteering Programme.
- Trinity Access Programme – Bridge to College
- Gaeltacht Trip*
- Gaisce - 'The President's Award' *



TY Modules/Subjects Layer



- Science Communications
- Equine Studies
- Restorative Practice
- Social and Emotional Learning
- School Self Evaluation
- Enterprise
- Artistic Performance
- Classical Studies
- Guidance
- Development Education
- First Aid
- Coding (ICT- *CSinc- Computer Science Inclusive*)
- Leadership and Coaching
- Microsoft Office Specialist:
→ Word, PowerPoint, Excel.

LC Subject Sampling



- Design and Communication Graphic
 - Engineering
 - Art
- Enterprise (Business/ Accounting)
 - Music
 - History
 - Politics
- Geography
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
- Home Economics

Core subject Layer for TY

All students will take :

- Mathematics
- English
- Gaeilge
- Modern Foreign Language
- Religion
- PE
- SPHE



Transition Year Assessment

Credits for:

- All Modules
- Modules: class projects/assessment
- Christmas and Summer Reports (throughout the year rolling report model)
- Work experience diary & Guidance
- Portfolio of Achievement (This is a reflective journal that students complete throughout the year)

Portfolio of Achievement (e-Portfolio via One Note)

- Portfolio pieces are selected from class work (projects, presentations, artwork, essays etc.)
- Tour/trip evaluations
- Guest speaker evaluations
- Event evaluations (e.g. Future Leaders, Coffee morning, Bridge to College project)
- Work Experience Diary (for their different workplaces)
- Photographic Diary
- Portfolio Tasks - Unique Activities (e.g. Gaisce, Barista, Future Leaders, Forensics, talks)
- e-Portfolio is corrected by Tutor and Year Head



Work Experience – Compulsory

Two Blocks of Work experience:

Block 1: 7-18th of December 2026

Block 2: 25th January - 5th of February 2027.

- **Students** are responsible for finding their own placements.
- Book placements early as there is a demand for places with the increasing number of TY students.
- **A variety of placements is recommended & meaningful work experience is encouraged.**
- Students will be given a hardcopy of work experience documentation including a copy of their insurance in their Career Guidance class. This has also been added to their e-portfolio.
- ***Work Experience throughout the year (outside of these 2 blocks) must be approved by Year Head***
- Students who require Garda Vetting need to speak with Deputy Principal D. Maher ASAP, as it can take up to 3-4 weeks for clearance.



TY Fund

- TY Fee is €350 and is now overdue. This can be paid on payzone, via hfcs.ie
- TY Fee covers the cost of the following;
 - Costs of certification
 - TY Graduation
 - Costs of external experts/programme costs
 - Fieldtrips
 - Guest speakers
 - Workshops
- Spontaneous & Ad-hoc trips/opportunities which companies/venues offer will incur extra small costs such as bus fees & admission fees throughout the year. To reduce transportation cost the Luas or other forms of public transportation may be used. Therefore, a leap card is required.
- **HFCS commits to being flexible and as forewarned & transparent as possible regarding costs. We will strive to achieve a balance between a richly rewarding programme & value for money.**



Coláiste Acla Trip (optional)



- **Price – €270.** This cost includes transport, food (breakfast, lunch, dinner and supper), and all equipment and activities. Students may bring extra money for the Coláiste tuck shop/shop on the way to Mayo if they wish.
- **Dates:** 26-28th April 2027
- Activities include but are not limited to surfing, kayaking, coasteering, bog snorkeling/obstacle course, abseiling, Canadian canoes. These activities are decided based on the tides/currents on the day.



Ski Trip

Dates: 14-19th January 2027

Final payment due 22nd October – pay directly to the tour company.

Details of a meeting regarding the final details for the ski trip will be sent via VSWare. It will take place in early January.

Students will be sent a list of appropriate clothing etc needed in the coming weeks

Parents Association

AGM - Tuesday October 13th at 6:30pm in the
school

Please get involved in the HFCS Parents Council

Follow us
on
Instagram



@hfcs_parents council

To join the
Parents Council
email



parents council@hfcs.ie



Fundraiser Weekly Draw

JACKPOT UP TO €3,000



Please contribute to the Holy Family Community School Fundraiser -
Run by the Parents Council.

1 line €2.50 | 2 lines €4 | 3 lines €5

Jackpot increases weekly (up to €3,000!)

Guaranteed €20 prize every week!

Your contribution will make a big difference for our students.

Easy to Enter!

Scan the QR code or visit
ourfundraiser.ie/org/hfcs



Terms & Conditions: Must be over 18 years of age to participate. Maximum of 3 recurring lines per supporter.

See website for more T&Cs. Powered by: Our Fundraiser | info@ourfundraiser.ie

Thank you for your
attendance tonight, we are
delighted to have you all as
part of our school
community

